Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2010-72

Phenmedipham

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Publications
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2720 Riverside Drive
A.L. 6604-E2
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

Internet: pmra.publications@hc-sc.gc.ca
healthcanada.gc.ca/pmra
Facsimile: 613-736-3758
Information Service:
1-800-267-6315 or 613-736-3799
pmra.infoserv@hc-sc.gc.ca

Canada

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is proposing to establish maximum residue limits (MRLs) for phenmedipham on garden beets, sugar beets and spinach to permit the import and sale of foods containing such residues.

Phenmedipham is a herbicide currently registered in Canada for use on sugar beets.

The PMRA has determined the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the imported food commodities when phenmedipham is used according to label directions in the exporting country. The Agency has also determined that such residues will not be a concern to human health and is proposing to legally establish corresponding import MRLs. An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Details regarding the import MRLs can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available in the Pesticides and Pest Management section Health Canada's website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.[1]

Consultation on the proposed import MRLs for phenmedipham is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document).

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRLs is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRLs for phenmedipham in Canada in or on food, to replace or be added to the MRLs already legally established, are as follows.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Phenmedipham

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Phenmedipham	3-[(methoxycarbonyl)amino]phenyl (3-methylphenyl)carbamate	4.0	Spinach
		0.2	Garden beet roots, garden beet tops, sugar beet molasses
		0.1	Sugar beet roots*

* The 0.05 ppm MRL established for sugar beet roots is proposed for revision to 0.1 ppm to accommodate the importation of treated commodities.

[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/Amendment/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2009-1302.

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

International Situation and Trade Implications

The proposed MRLs for phenmedipham in Canada are the same as corresponding tolerances established in the United States (tolerances are listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide). Currently, Codex Alimentarius MRLs[2] have not been established for phenmedipham on any commodity. A listing of all established Codex MRLs is available on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website.

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed import MRLs for phenmedipham up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRLs for phenmedipham and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit document in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

[2] The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.